

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ACCEPTS FIRST EDITION OF 'ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH CAROLINA'

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley recently accepted a first-edition copy of the “Encyclopedia of North Carolina,” covering the state, its people, land and institutions from the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. The 1,360-page book published by the University of North Carolina Press, is the work of William Powell, 87-year-old dean of North Carolina history and dedicated for former UNC President Bill Friday and his wife Ida.

“This encyclopedia tells the rich and diverse story of North Carolina and is a tribute to Professor Powell’s persistence, dedication and love for his state,” said Easley. “Bill Powell is as much a state treasure as any of the wonders, gems and treasures covered in this invaluable resource.”

In April 1991 Powell submitted the first list of proposed entries, 3,000 in all, to his editors. By the end of 1998, 2,300 of those originally proposed were assigned to and completed. This final work represents more than 2,000 entries compiled from more than 550 contributors that include college professors, professional writers and amateur historians all motivated by their passion for North Carolina and devotion to Powell’s vision. Every contributor volunteered their time and work without compensation.

The encyclopedia is the last in a trilogy of unique and primary references on North Carolina he compiled. The “North Carolina Gazetteer,” the geographical dictionary of the state, was first published in 1968. The six-volume “Dictionary of North Carolina Biography” came out between 1979 and 1996.

The list of contributors to the book includes former Charlotte Observer editorial writer Jack Claiborne, WRAL-TV meteorologist Gregory Fishel, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian William Leuchtenburg, Fayetteville editor and historian Roy Parker Jr., sociologist and expert on Southern Culture John Shelton Reed, former state Supreme Court Justice Willis Whichard and more.

The “Encyclopedia of North Carolina,” edited by William Powell, Jay Mazzocchi, associate editor, published Nov. 20, 2006 by the University of North Carolina Press, \$65.00. For more information go online to www.encyclopediaofnorthcarolina.org.

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